

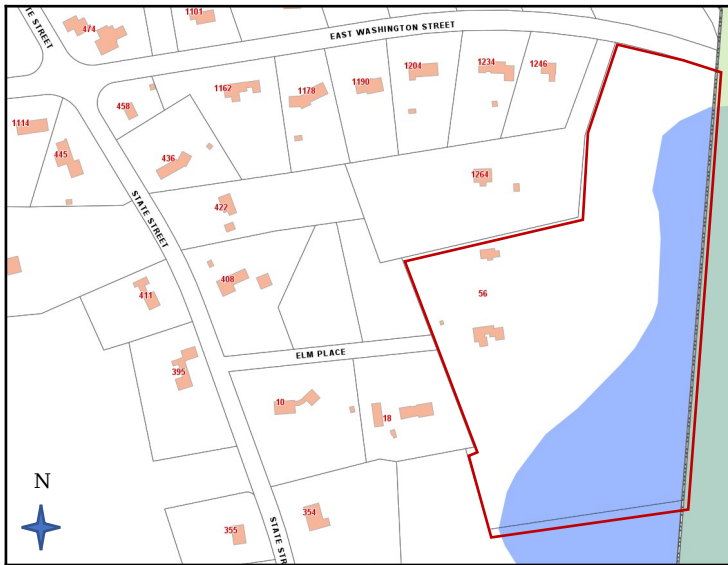
# FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson  
community preservation + planning

**Organization:** Hanson Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): June 2018

Assessor's Number    USGS Quad    Area(s)    Form  
Number

112-0-6-0

Hanover

HNS.209

**Town/City:** Hanson

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):

**Address:** 56 Elm Place

**Historic Name:** Daniel R. and Abigail Elms  
House

**Uses:** Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Single-Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1822

**Source:** Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

**Style/Form:** Federal/Cape

**Architect/Builder:** Ansel Elm (also Elmes)

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingle/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** A second structure is visible on the assessor's map of the area but is not visible from the public way.

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Additions to south and east facades at unknown dates

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒

**yes** ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 10.82 Acres

**Setting:** Located along the Pembroke border, the house is visible at the far end of a narrow dead-end street with dense vegetation to either side and is surrounded by single family residences on large lots.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

56

ELM PLACE

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.209

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.  
*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The one-and-a-half story Cape style house is located at the end of a narrow road and is surrounded on both sides by dense vegetation. As such, only the west, street-facing façade of the house is clearly visible from the public way. The house has an asphalt shingled gable roof with a slightly shorter gable roofed addition visible on the south façade of the building. The assessor's map of the property suggests that the house has further additions to its east façade but these are not visible from the public way. A large, square brick chimney with a narrow corbeled top edge projects out of the center of the roof ridge. The house has wood shingle siding which is painted on the west façade and unpainted on the south façade of the house. The building also has narrow wood corner boards with wood trimmed eaves on the gable facades and a painted wood trim board surrounding the outer edges of the gable end. The double hung windows appear to be wood replacement windows and are six-over-six in design.

The west façade of the house is symmetrical in design with two double hung windows to either side of the center entrance. All of the windows have simple wood frames with slightly projecting sills. The entrance has a solid wood door with long wooden shutters installed to either side. The frame extends around these shutters, suggesting that there may be sidelights surrounding the door as well. The entrance opens on to a low stone entrance step which leads to a walkway to the driveway. A second entrance is located on the north façade but its details are not visible from the public way. On the south façade, a small double hung window is visible at the center of the gable-end and a single window is located in the southwest corner of the façade in front of the one-story addition. The south façade of the addition has a single double hung window at its center, and its south gable-end is not visible from the street.

The house is set back from the end of Elm Place behind an open grass lawn surrounded by dense vegetation and trees to both the north and south. A row of trees and plantings extends along the west property line as well. A narrow dirt driveway begins at the end of Elm Street and runs to the house, where it extends past the north façade. A few ornamental plantings are located around the foundation of the house as well. The house is located near the western edge of a large parcel that extends to the Pembroke border and is primarily wooded. A second house appears to be located to the north of this building on the assessor's map but it is not visible from any public ways.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

White's History of Hanson states that 56 Elm Place was standing as of 1830 and was the former home of Daniel Rodney Elms<sup>1</sup> (also spelled Elmes) which was built by Ansel Elms after he had "sold the Percival Place." Ansel Elms (1767-1842) was the father of Daniel Rodney Elms and sold his previous home at 408 State Street, later

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/87376025/daniel-rodney-elms>

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

56

ELM PLACE

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

	HNS.209
--	---------

known as the Percival Place, in 1822.<sup>2</sup> Born in Pembroke and married to Charlotte Bonney in 1792, Ansel is listed as living in Hanson (then Pembroke) in the 1810 U.S. Census. In the 1820 U.S. Federal Census, Ansel is listed in Hanson with a family of nine including one adult working in agriculture and one in manufacturing, although the details of the individuals and their trades are not listed. Ansel continues to be listed in Hanson as working in agriculture through the 1840 U.S. Census, by which time Daniel Rodney Elms is listed with him. Daniel Rodney Elms (1812-1880) married Abigail Sprague of Hanover in 1836 and moved to the family home on what is now Elm Place. The 1855 Massachusetts Census lists Daniel R. as a stonecutter and his son, Augustus, as a shoemaker, while the 1860 U.S. Census lists Daniel R. as a farmer.

The 1856 Walling Map shows "D.R. Elms" living at the end of "Elms Place," now Elm Place. "D.R. Elms" is still listed as the owner in 1879 on the Walker Atlas, but after his death in 1880, the property, listed in deeds as the "Elmes Farm," changed hands several times from Loring Jones to Edward Perry to Hannah Stoddard in 1894.<sup>3</sup> The 1903 Richards Map lists the house as belonging to H. Stoddard, which is consistent with the 1910 U.S. Census where Hannah is recorded as a widow and the owner of the farm who was living on the property with her three sons Henry, Royal, and Samuel Stoddard. Hannah died in 1915 and by 1920, Henry Stoddard, now working as a boxmaker, and Hannah's daughter, Annie Shute, were living at 56 Elm Place. Annie married George Baker, a watchmaker, in 1923, and the couple continued to live with Henry Stoddard until the early 1930s. During this time, the siblings divided up the former farm into at least two lots - one with the existing 56 Elm Place and a second including the land to the south of Elm Place running to State Street. Henry appears to have moved to Hanover during the 1930s, where he passed away in 1942, but may have continued to own at least a portion of the former family farm. Annie and George Baker also are no longer listed in Hanson in the 1940s and appear to have sold their interest in the property around this time.

It is not clear who owned the farm, or whether anyone was living there, in the 1940s and early 1950s. In 1956 and 1965, Dana and Norma Billings purchased the two parcels belonging to the former farm, one of which held the current 56 Elm Place. Dana Billings had married Norma Carlson in 1950 and was an engineer who worked in the 1950s for the Boston Insurance Company and in the 1960s for The Hartford Insurance. The couple is listed in both North Pembroke and South Hanover during this period, which may have been a mistaken reference to 56 Elm Place, which borders Pembroke and is close to the southern border of Hanover. The couple lived here until Dana's death in 2010. Today the property is owned by Norma as part of the Billings Family Living Trust.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Brown, Donna McCulloch. *Images of America: Hanson*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2003.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Census, 1855 and 1865. Located in Local History Room, Hanson Public Library and [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

Gurney, E.B.K., "History of Hanson," in D.H. Hurd, *History of Plymouth County, Massachusetts* (Philadelphia, 1884), p. 340-355. Available at [www.archive.org/details/historyofplymout02hurd/page/340](http://www.archive.org/details/historyofplymout02hurd/page/340)

Hanson Historical Commission. *History of Town of Hanson*. March 2, 1959. (Typescript) Project of Historical Commission and Board of Selectmen approved by vote of Town Meeting.  
<https://archive.org/details/historyoftownofh00sn>

Massachusetts Birth, Marriage and Death Records. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

Obituaries, Burial information, and Family Trees, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 147, Page 90

<sup>3</sup> Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 689, Page 65

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

56

ELM PLACE

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.209

Richards, L.J. *New Topographic Atlas of Plymouth County and Cohasset Town*, 1903. Town of Hanson, Plate 16. [www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/9831/Hanson+Town++Pembroke+Town/Plymouth+County+and+Cohasset+Town+1903/Massachusetts/](http://www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/9831/Hanson+Town++Pembroke+Town/Plymouth+County+and+Cohasset+Town+1903/Massachusetts/)

Smith, J. Plan of Hanson. 1830. <https://usgenwebhansonma.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/1830hansonmap.jpg>

Town of Hanson Assessor's database and property record cards, [www.assessedvalues2.com/index.aspx?jurcode=123](http://www.assessedvalues2.com/index.aspx?jurcode=123)

Town of Hanson Assessor's Records on Persons and Property, 1941-1970. Located in Local History Room, Hanson Public Library.

U.S. Census information, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

Walker, George H. *Atlas of Plymouth County, Mass.* 1879. Map of the Town of Hanson at [www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/8999/Hanson+Town/Plymouth+County+1879/Massachusetts/](http://www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/8999/Hanson+Town/Plymouth+County+1879/Massachusetts/),

Walling, Henry Francis. *Map of town of Hanson, Plymouth County, Mass. 1856.* (New York, 1857). [www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:1257bd15g](http://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:1257bd15g)

White, Joseph B. *White's History of Hanson, MA.* 1932. Annotated manuscript compiled between 1908-1932 and revised by Allan Clemons, 2014. Binder copy located in the Local History Room, Hanson Public Library.

ELM PLACE

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.209

## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible      ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
- ☐ Contributing to a potential historic district      ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria:    ☒ **A**    ☐ **B**    ☒ **C**    ☐ **D**Criteria Considerations:    ☐ **A**    ☐ **B**    ☐ **C**    ☐ **D**    ☐ **E**    ☐ **F**    ☐ **G**Statement of Significance by Lara Kritzer

\_\_\_\_\_

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The ca. 1822 Cape style house is eligible for individual listing on the National Register under Criteria A for its association with the early settlement of Plymouth County and Massachusetts, and development of Hanson as a separate town. The house is also eligible under Criteria C as it has survived in its original location virtually intact with both its setting and original architectural character intact despite two centuries of use. The house embodies the distinctive character of early nineteenth century construction and has had few changes or modifications. Additional information on the building's interior will also be needed for the Massachusetts Historical Commission to substantiate its National Register eligibility.